

FUCKING AROUND

w/ frank traeger in
old man howard's
warehouse i was
sidearming long
neck wine & beer
bottles at iron
beams when frank
whipped out his
father's 38 snub
& yelled i'm doc
holliday he blew
out 3 windows then
sent the last 3
slugs into the
skylight never

thinking the glass
wd come down &
there wasn't enough
time to duck out
of the way he just
stood there in the
middle of that
blizzard yelling
shit when it was
over sd he cd feel
stuff sticking
thru his coat i
turned him around
what does it look
like he asked
sequins & blood

-- Todd Moore

Belvidere IL

WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

the cop fingered us
and swung a U-turn
flashing his red

we were holding
not too heavy
just several bags of H

and gambling
rather than swallow
we stuff them
in the ragged door panel

while i contrived a story
knowing they'll separate us
to see if our stories jibe

i came up with "'member that 48 Ford
we saw back there For Sale? Look it,
while i was on lunch break you came down
and picked me up being that you live just
up the alley from me see about picking this
car up, your dad is thinking of buying"

and after, when the cops
let us go

DJ says "Man you pulled that one
out of your ass!" happy that
it worked

always do

when the chips are down
i'm never nervous
think fast and quick
it's only after
the shit's over
my knees get a little shakey

WHILE MOPPING

i get this image of
Orlovsky driving the VW bus
back in the 60s
all around the country
Ginsberg in back
writing in his journals
the stuff that came out in
The Fall Of America

and wonder about drivers
and driving
and this poetess i know in Cleveland
who doesn't drive

then think: with everything
we've been led to know
about Orlovsky
would you let him drive?
and Gregory Corso sitting shotgun?

it's a long way
from Neal Cassidy

in fact none of the beats
were very good drivers
Kerouac never drove
Ginsberg always flies
and Burroughs i hear drives about
ten miles per hour
and pulls over for oncoming traffic
JC Holmes probably does drive, maybe

so it's no wonder they all
were so enamoured of
Neal's driving

-- Mark Weber

Cleveland Heights OH